

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 41-48 have been added. In addition, the Specification has been amended to claim priority to both U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/246,373 and U.S. Patent Application No. 09/921,489. This Amendment has been made within four months of the actual filing date of the present application, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.78(a)(2). Please note that a copy of an executed Declaration is included with this paper, which lists the current inventors. This list includes at least one inventor in common with each of the prior applications to which priority is claimed in the present case.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie L. Kwan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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